

News Release



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TOWN OF HERNDON PARTICIPATES IN REGION-WIDE “PATRIOT CHALLENGE II” TO ASSESS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

January 26, 2006 – The Town of Herndon was one of eleven localities throughout the northern Virginia area to participate in the “Patriot Challenge II,” a simulation exercise designed to enact and assess emergency preparedness systems throughout the region.

Town Manager Stephen F. Owen, Police Chief Toussaint E. Summers, Jr., Town Attorney Richard Kaufman and department heads from the offices of Public Works, Community Development, Information Technology, Town Clerk and Public Information participated in the four-hour exercise, during which all departments worked together in response to simulated emergencies.

Additionally, the Town’s participants coordinated responses with other exercise participants throughout the Northern Virginia region via WebEOC, a portal that facilitates multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency communications and coordination in the event of an emergency.

Herndon Mayor Michael O’Reilly, an observer throughout the exercise, was impressed with the level of preparedness and coordinated response demonstrated by the participants. “Safeguarding its citizens is a primary objective of any municipality,” he said. “The point of this exercise was to identify areas where we can improve our emergency preparedness systems, and that was accomplished. But, most importantly, the exercise demonstrated that Herndon has the systems in place to respond effectively and efficiently in the event of an emergency.”

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the

3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 22,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town's website at **www.herndon-va.gov**.

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